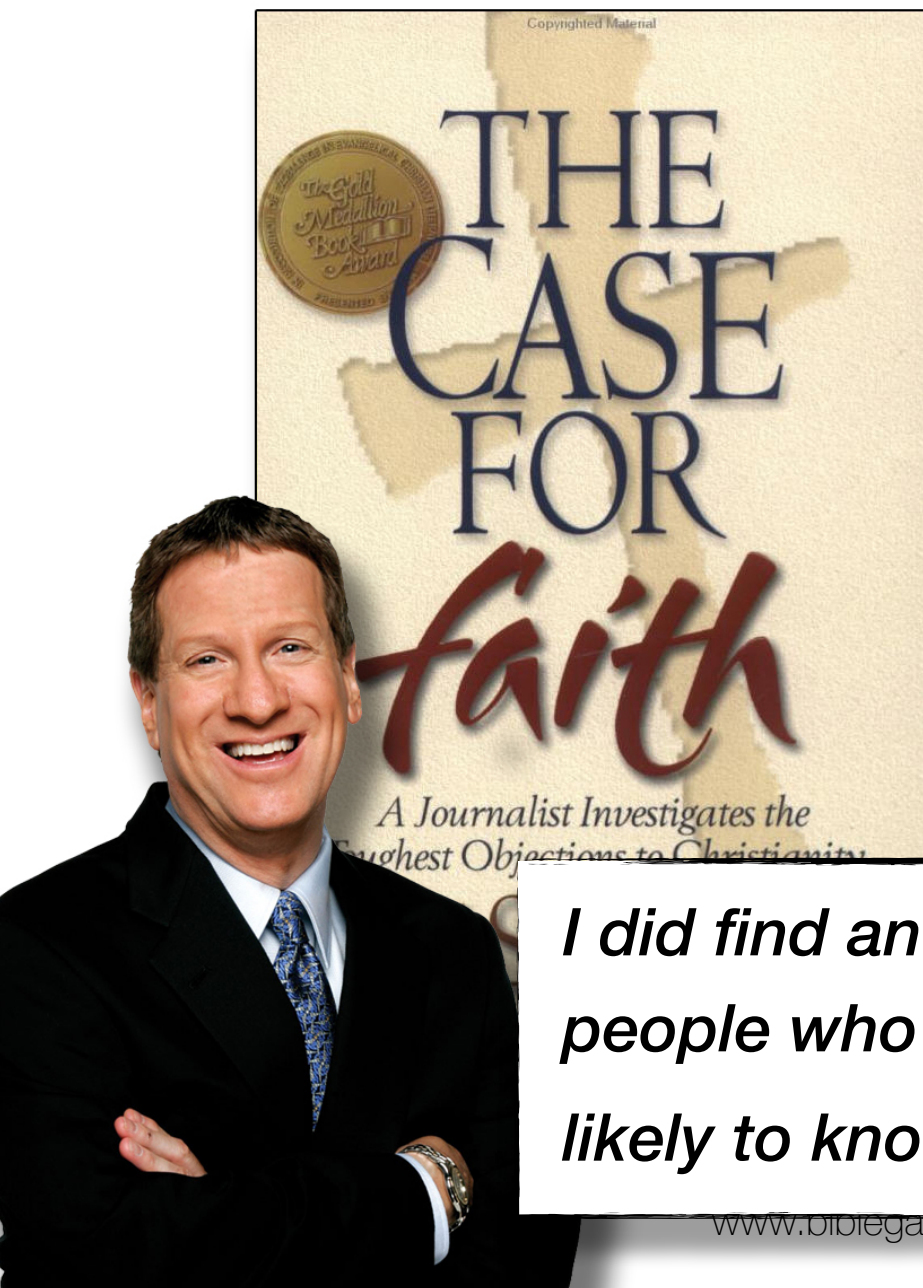


Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. -James 4:8

Draw Near to **God**





Several years ago, I commissioned a national survey and asked people what question they'd ask if they could ***"only ask God one thing, what would it be?"***

The Number One response was:

"Why is there suffering in the world?"

I did find an interesting statistical quirk – people who are married were much more likely to know **why** there's so much suffering.

Old Testament

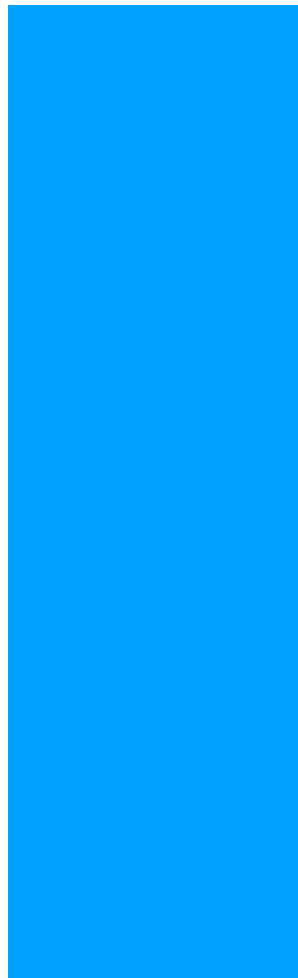
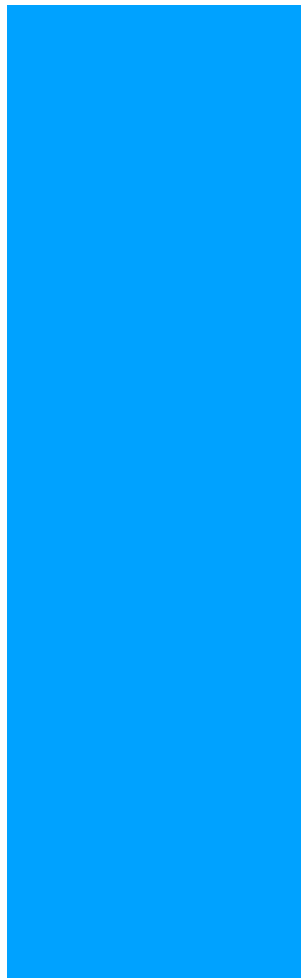
39 Books

**Teaching
/ Law**

History

**Wisdom
/ Poetry**

**Prophets
/ Major & Minor**



**Genesis
/ Deut.**

**Joshua
/ Esther**

**Job
/ Songs
of Sol.**

**Isaiah
/ Daniel**

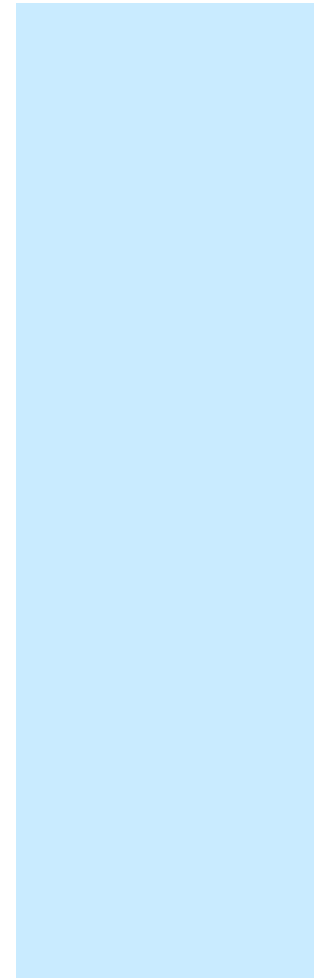
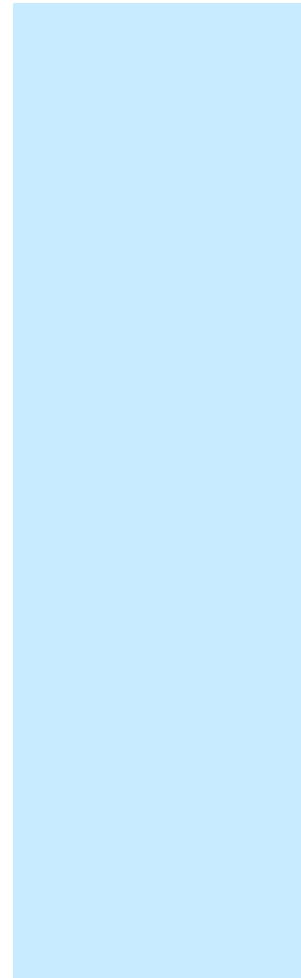
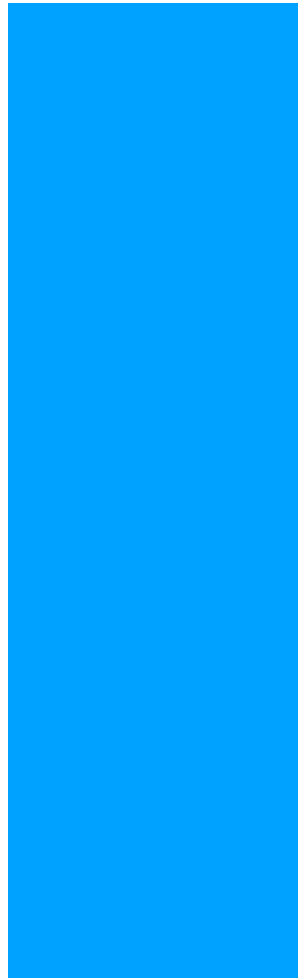
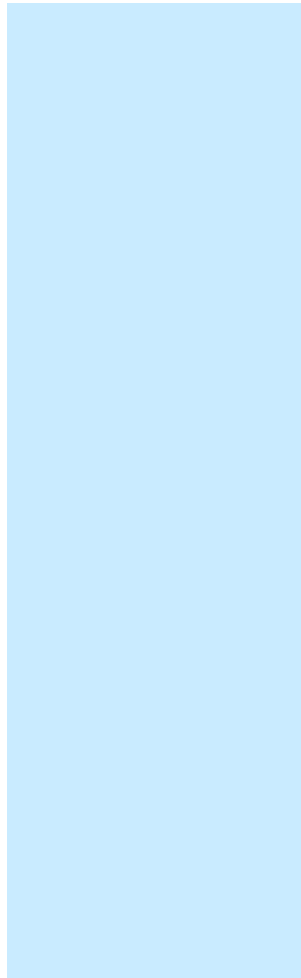
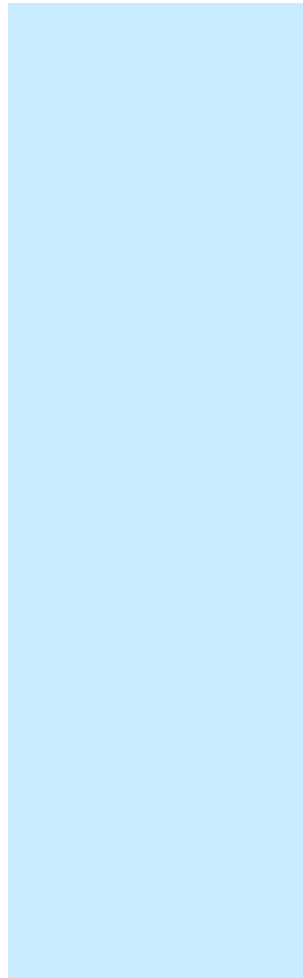
**Hosea
/ Malachi**

Teaching
/ Law

History

Wisdom
/ Poetry

Prophets
/ Major & Minor



Genesis
/ Deut.

Joshua
/ Esther

Job
/ Songs
of Sol.

Isaiah
/ Daniel

Hosea
/ Malachi

CHAPTER 1



- BLAMELESS
- RIGHTEOUS
- FEARS GOD
- SHUNS EVIL

CHAPTERS 1+2

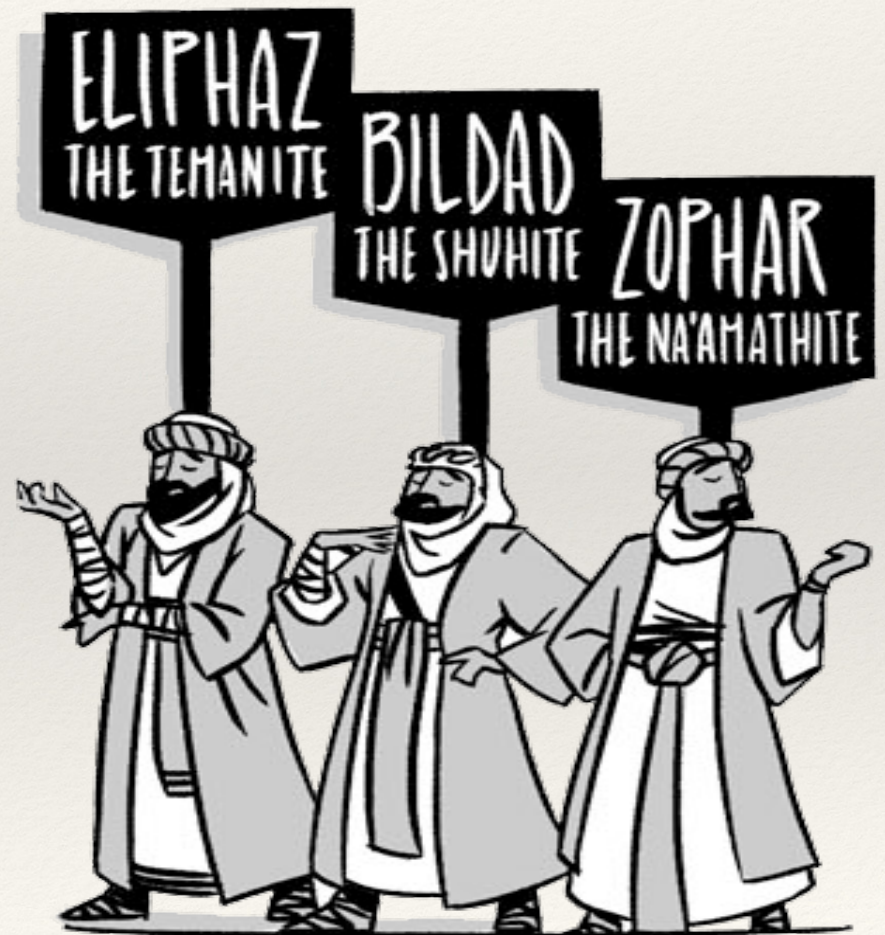


CATASTROPHIC DEMISE:

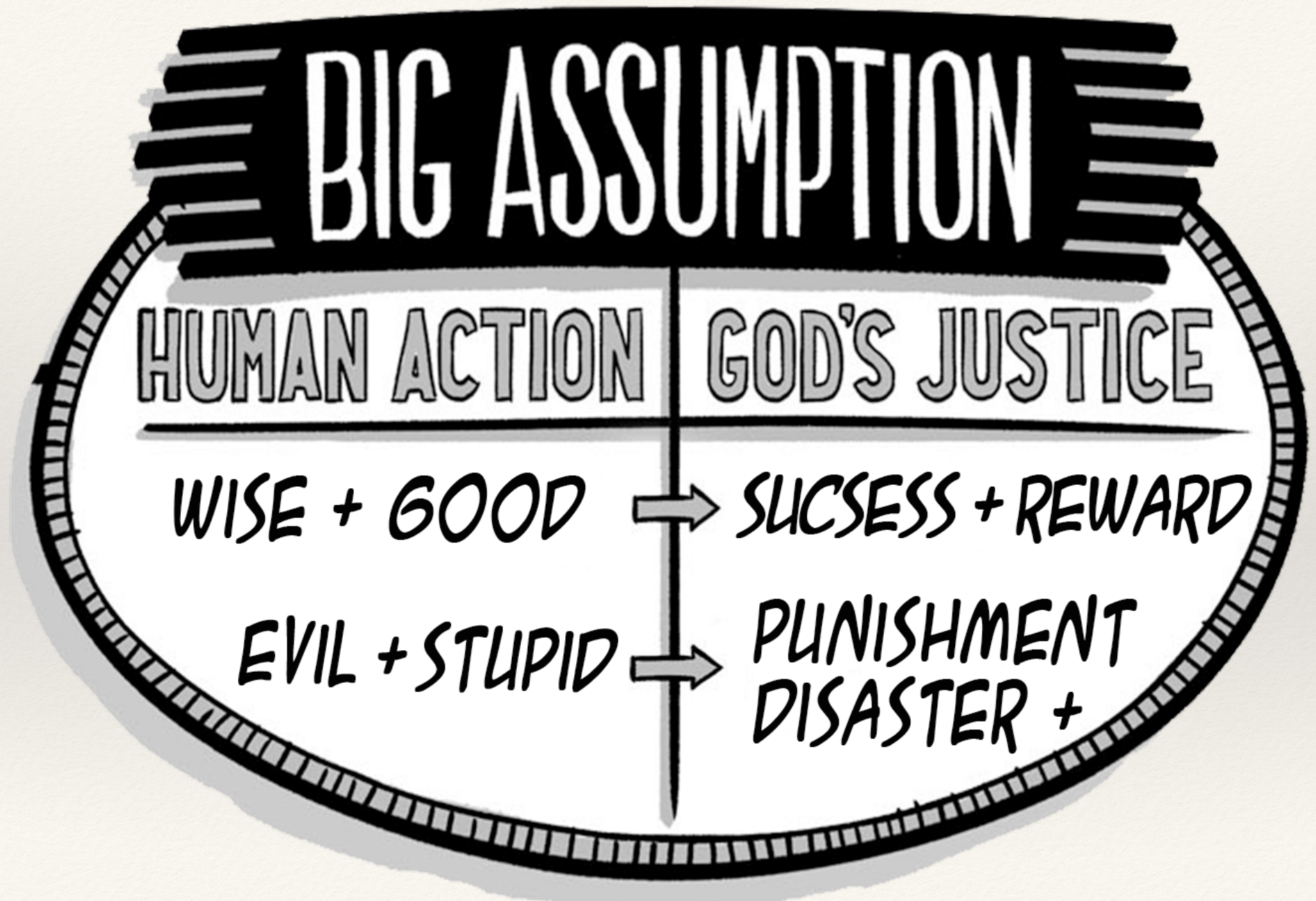
- RELATIONSHIPS
- FINANCIAL
- HEALTH



ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS



CHAPTERS 3-37



3 ways we experience pain/suffering

#1 Natural Disaster :

Tsunami, Earthquakes, Flood & Famine.

#2 Unknown Personal Suffering:

(Job) physical ailments, financial burdens, relational lose.

#3 Cause and Effect:

persecution, effect of poor choices or God's discipline.

JOB WANTS GOD
TO VINDICATE HIM!
-JOB 13:18

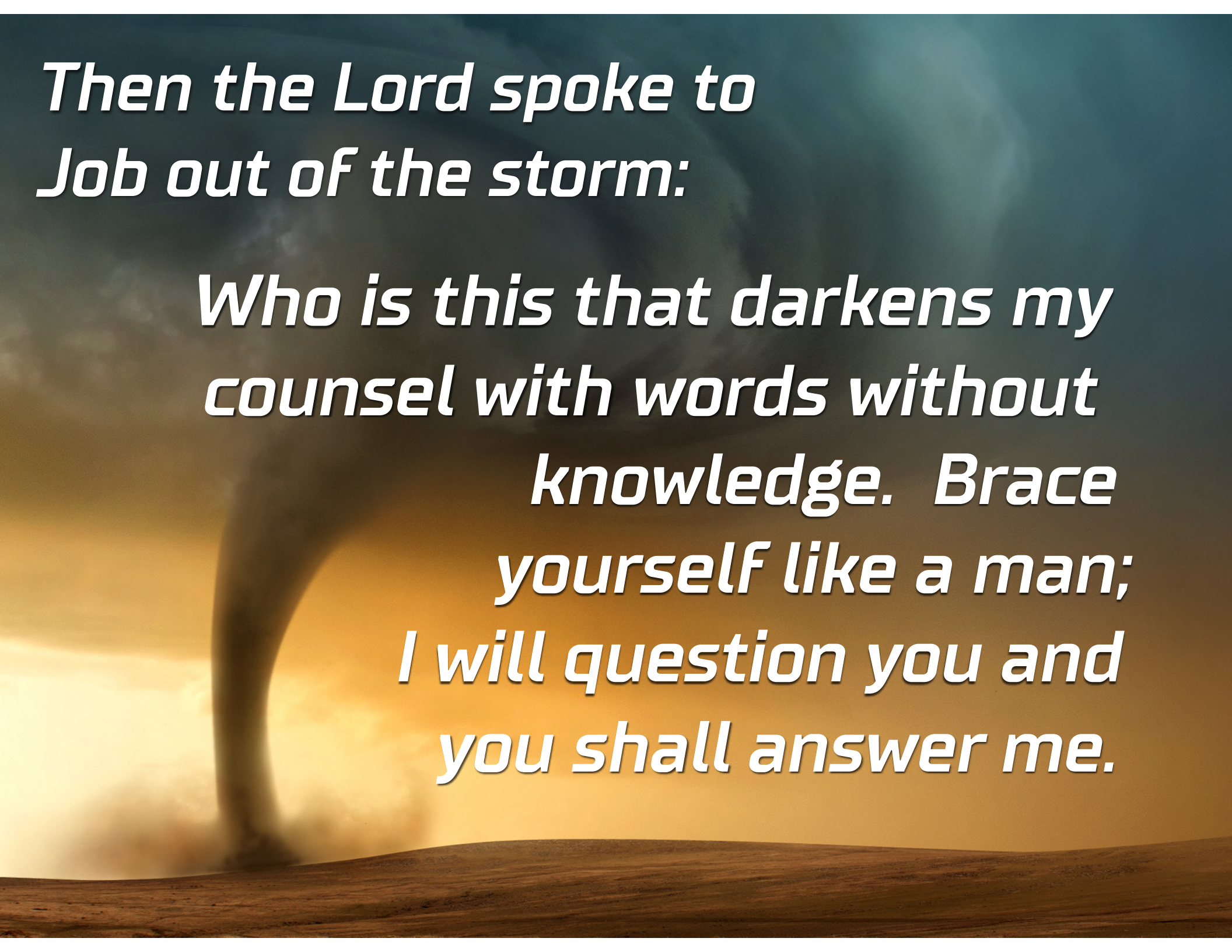


JOB DEMANDS
AN EXPLANATION!
-JOB 31:35

JOB HAS DECLARED
HIMSELF INNOCENT!
-JOB 34:5



I SIGN MY
DEFENSE, LET
THE ALMIGHTY
ANSWER ME!
(JOB 31:35)



*Then the Lord spoke to
Job out of the storm:*

*Who is this that darkens my
counsel with words without
knowledge. Brace
yourself like a man;
I will question you and
you shall answer me.*

CHAPTERS 38-41

GOD'S RESPONSE



1. A FRAME OF REFERENCE.

WHAT UNDERSTANDING DO YOU HAVE OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COSMOS?

HOW IS THE COSMOS SUSTAINED AND ORDERED?

WHO DESIGNED THE INTRICACIES OF THE ANIMAL, PLANT AND WEATHER SYSTEM?

CHAPTERS 38-41

GOD'S RESPONSE



1. A FRAME OF REFERENCE.

“WHO HAS?”, “WHO DID?” 12X

“HAVE YOU?”, “CAN YOU?”, “DO YOU?” OR “WILL YOU?” 32X

ANIMAL, PLANT AND WEATHER SYSTEM?

CHAPTERS 38-42

GOD'S RESPONSE



1. A FRAME OF REFERENCE.

POINT #1: JOBS

UNDERSTANDING OF THE
COMPLEXITIES OF THE WORLD
AND IT'S ORDER ARE LIMITED.

CHAPTERS 38-42

GOD'S RESPONSE



1. A FRAME OF REFERENCE.

POINT #2: THE WORLD AS GOD HAS
MADE IT IS AMAZING, BUT IT IS NOT
DESIGNED TO PREVENT SUFFERING,
AND GOD CAN USE IT FOR HIS GOOD!

CHAPTERS 40+42

JOB'S 1ST RESPONSE



40:3-5 THEN JOB ANSWERED THE LORD:
4 "I AM UNWORTHY—HOW CAN I REPLY TO
YOU? I PUT MY HAND OVER MY MOUTH. 5 I
SPOKE ONCE, BUT I HAVE NO ANSWER—
TWICE, BUT I WILL SAY NO MORE"

CHAPTERS 40+42

JOB'S 1ST RESPONSE



***SHOWS APPROPRIATE
SUBMISSION AND HUMILITY
BUT IS NOT A RETRACTION OF
HIS ASSUPTIONS.***

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CHAPTERS 40+42

JOB'S 2ND RESPONSE

42:1-6 'THEN JOB REPLIED THE LORD: 2 "I KNOW THAT YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS; NO PURPOSE OF YOURS CAN BE THWARTED. 3 **SURELY I SPOKE OF THINGS I DID NOT UNDERSTAND, THINGS TOO WONDERFUL FOR ME TO KNOW.** 5MY EARS HAD HEARD OF YOU BUT NOW MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOU. 6THEREFORE I DESPISE MYSELF AND **REPENT** IN DUST AND ASHES!"

Lessons and reminders from Job:

1. One of the gut reactions most people have to the book of Job is that it seems deeply unfair. But the fact is we should all be grateful that God doesn't give us what we all deserve!

He does not treat us as our sins
deserve or repay us according to
our iniquities. -Psalms 103:10

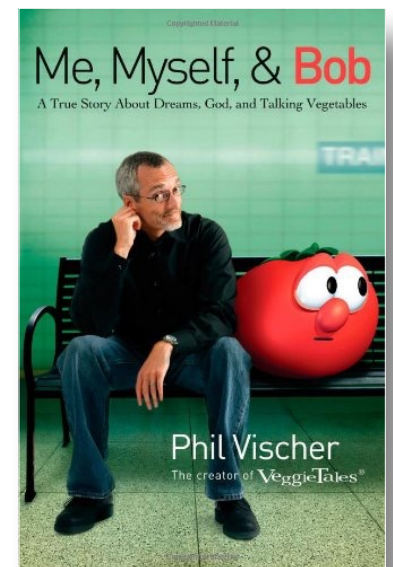


Lessons and reminders from Job:

2. Although we'd all like to have more insight and answers to why there is suffering in the world, we all have the same choice that Job did when he lacked those answers, ***Will I trust and obey God or not?*** (I believe the answer to this question boils down to one thing: *Do I believe that God loves and cares about me?*)

I am very serious when I say this, beware of your dreams, for dreams make dangerous friends. We all have them—longings for a better life, a healthy child, a happy marriage, rewarding work. But dreams are, I have come to believe, misplaced longings. False lovers. Why? Because God is enough. Just God. And he isn't "enough" because he can make our dreams come true—no, if you believe that you've got him confused with Santa or Merlin or Oprah. The God who created the universe is enough for us—even without our dreams. God was enough for the martyrs facing lions and fire—even when the lions and the fire won. And God is enough for you.

-page 250-251



A QUESTION FOR US.

**DO YOU LOVE GOD FOR
WHAT HE GIVES YOU, OR
BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS?**

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who
walk in obedience to him. *-Psalms 128:1*

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will
obey my teaching. My Father will love
them, and we will come to them and make
our home with them. *-John 14:23*



Lessons and reminders from Job:

3. Job's blind spot is not unlike ours, trials reveal that we don't really trust God because we have too small a view of Him and too big a view of ourselves.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways declares
the Lord. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher
than the earth, so are my ways higher
than your way and my thoughts than
your thoughts. -Isaiah 55:8-9



Lessons and reminders from Job:

4. Job's life uniquely qualifies him to intercede on his friends behalf.
Jesus' life uniquely qualifies him to intercede on our behalf.

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. -Romans 8:34

